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Information Alert

The National Agricultural Library



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Press Releases — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris
(301) 344-3778

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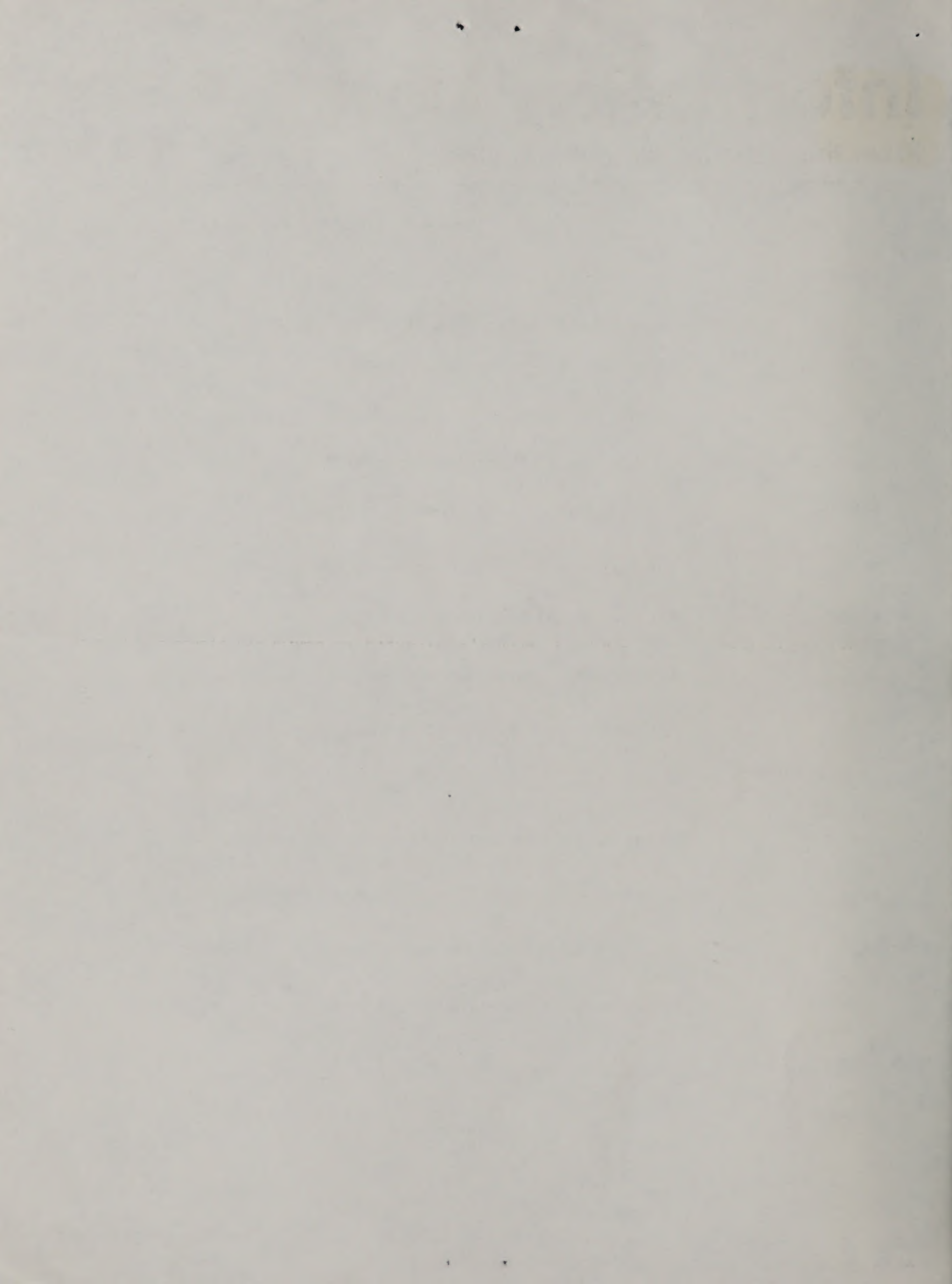
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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

USDA Feed Composition Data Bank Discontinued

Beltsville, MD — On November 1, 1990, activities of the Feed Composition Data Bank (FCDB), located at the National Agricultural Library (NAL), were indefinitely suspended.

Because of funding constraints, NAL is unable to provide adequate resources to support FCDB in the foreseeable future.

FCDB contains nutrient data on more than 23,000 feeds and feed ingredients, and has been located at NAL since 1986.

“We deeply regret having to take such drastic measures,” said Gary McCone, head of NAL’s Database Administration Branch, “But we have reached a point where it is not possible to produce a reliable product with the limited resources we have.”

NAL plans to continue to maintain the related International Feed Number and International Feed Nomenclature files pending discussions with the International Network of Feed Information Centres (INFIC) about alternatives.

NAL will provide a machine-readable copy of FCDB, its associated computer programs, and system documentation to anyone interested in taking over the operation of the database. Contact Gary McCone at (301) 344-3813 for details.

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December 18, 1990

Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States
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Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Brian Norris
(301) 344-3778**

NAL Holds Cooking Demos, Other Activities for Food and Nutrition Information Center Anniversary

Beltsville, MD – In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), a year-long program of public activities is being held at NAL.

“Heart Healthy Treats for Your Valentine” and “Cooking Tips to Keep Your Heart in Shape” were two free cooking demonstrations that were given at the Library in February, designated American Heart Month by the American Heart Association.

Natalie Updegrove, FNIC nutritionist, said that in addition to helping to focus attention on American Heart Month, the cooking demonstrations kicked off FNIC’s 20th anniversary celebration.

“Since 1970, NAL’s Food and Nutrition Information Center has been providing information to the American public on maintaining a healthy and nutritious diet,” she said. “We are proud of that record and, in celebration, have planned a year-long calendar of events focusing on food and nutrition.”

Other anniversary activities include nutrition exhibits at NAL during March, National Nutrition Month; National Employees Health and Fitness Day on May 15; a seminar on food and nutrition research in June and “Healthy Holiday Eating Tips” in November and December. FNIC will officially celebrate its 20th anniversary with an open house and a large nutrition exhibit in September.

The cooking demonstrations were open to the public and were held in the NAL cafeteria on the fourteenth floor of the library. Sponsored by FNIC and the Fitness Center of USDA’s Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the cooking demonstrations, as the names imply, focused on “heart healthy” recipes.

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"We demonstrated some fairly quick and easy dishes that are low in fat yet high in taste," Updegrave said. "On February 12, we featured chicken and vegetarian dishes, fish, two side dishes, bread and a meringue dessert with fruit sauce. On February 28, we concentrated on how to prepare meals and snacks to reduce the risk of heart disease."

Updegrave said the cooking demonstrations were very well attended and an excellent way to start FNIC's anniversary year.

The Food and Nutrition Information Center was the first of a dozen information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to food and nutrition, subjects covered include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, plant genome, rural development, technology transfer, water quality, youth development, and others.

The National Agricultural Library is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris
(301) 344-3778

NAL Hosts First International Technology Workshop

Beltsville, MD — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) will host the first New Technology Workshop being sponsored by the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (known as IAALD) at the Library in Beltsville on September 16-20, 1991.

IAALD is a 700-member body of agricultural information specialists representing over 80 countries. It was established in 1955 with the objective of promoting and advancing public education and information transfer in agricultural development and production.

The workshop will feature in-depth lectures and demonstrations on new information management technologies. Workshop organizers said there will be opportunities for hands-on use of the technologies with guidance by internationally recognized experts. The registration fee for the workshop, which will include four lunches, is \$490.00.

"Taking full advantage of recent developments in computer technology is vitally important to information specialists everywhere," said NAL Director Joseph Howard, who was recently elected to a five-year term as IAALD President. "If it is used wisely, the technology will allow the rapid spread of knowledge in the agricultural sciences."

Among topics scheduled to be covered in the workshop are telecommunications and networking, multimedia CD-ROM development, scanning and optical character recognition, hypertext and expert system applications, digital image transmission, informatics (simulations and forecasting), and machine-readable storage and access for photographs.

For further information on the IAALD New Technology Workshop contact:

Gary K. McCone
Information Systems Division
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

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Telephone: (301) 344-3813

The IAALD New Technology Workshop is the first in a series of workshops to be held worldwide in the next several years. Future workshops will focus on library collection development and document delivery, in addition to new technology.

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL Has Information to Help Reduce Tractor Rollover Deaths

Beltsville, MD — Information which may help prevent deaths from tractor rollovers now is available through the Rural Information Center (RIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL). RIC, and the Rural Information Center Health Service, can be reached by dialing, toll-free, 1-800-633-7701.

The information is contained in the new publication, *Rollover Protection; A Guide to Tractor Roll Bars and Other Rollover Protective Structures*. The guide was prepared and recently released to agricultural extension offices and cooperatives by the Wisconsin Rural Health Research Center, a program of the Marshfield (Wisconsin) Medical Research Foundation.

The Office of Rural Health Policy, part of the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), provided funding to assist in producing the 65-page directory.

Listed in the publication are tractor models which have protective structures and information on suppliers, price and other features.

NAL's Rural Information Center has copies of the directory for use on-site and can provide information on the locations of other copies.

In announcing the release of the publication, HHS officials said that although most new tractors are sold with factory installed rollover protective structures, only about 30 percent of the 4.5 million tractors used on U.S. farms are equipped with these devices.

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HHS officials said that a lack of "a single, comprehensive source of information on the availability of rollover protection structures has been a major obstacle to owners seeking to equip their tractors with this safeguard." The officials said that publication and distribution of the rollover protection guide should help reduce the number of deaths and injuries on U.S. farms.

An estimated 300-400 persons are killed and 600-700 suffer disabling injuries each year in tractor rollover accidents, according to the Wisconsin Rural Health Research Center. The center estimates that about 15 percent of the victims are children and that 30-40 percent of overturns of tractors without rollover protection result in death. In a study of 50 overturns of tractors with rollover protection, there was only one fatality, a 2-percent rate, the center said.

In releasing the guide, the center said a rollover protection structure provides a secure area for the operator in the event of a rollover. Since the operator is protected only by remaining in the secure area, a seat belt must be used when operating a tractor with rollover protection.

The Rural Information Center is one of a dozen information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to rural development, subjects covered include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, technology transfer, water quality, youth development, and others.

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Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL Names Biotechnology Information Coordinator

Beltsville, MD — The director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), Joseph Howard, has announced that Dr. Robert D. Warmbrodt, a plant physiologist with 20 years of professional experience, has been named the coordinator of NAL's Biotechnology Information Center (BIC). Dr. Warmbrodt began this assignment in December 1990.

NAL's Biotechnology Information Center acquires, compiles and disseminates information on the impact of the science of biotechnology on agriculture in the United States and the world.

Specifically, Dr. Warmbrodt said that BIC "provides information retrieval services to NAL patrons with questions in the general area of agricultural biotechnology as well as in specific areas such as the theory and techniques of genetic engineering, plant and animal tissue culture, risk assessment of the release of genetically-engineered organisms, and government regulation of the field of biotechnology."

The BIC staff can provide CD-ROM and online database searching, lists of citations for reference materials, and the names of biotechnology contacts in industry, government, and academic institutions. The telephone number for BIC is (301) 344-3875. The address is:

Biotechnology Information Center
National Agriculture Library, Room 1402
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

A native of Bunceton, Missouri, Dr. Warmbrodt has an A.B. degree in botany and chemistry from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a master's degree in botany and a Ph.D. in botany and horticulture, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also was an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the University of Göttingen in Göttingen, Germany.

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Dr. Warmbrodt's work experience includes service as a plant physiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Climate Stress Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland; research in horticulture at the University of Maryland-College Park and in botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and teaching assignments in botany at Ohio State University-Columbus and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also spent a year collecting plants in Panama and Costa Rica for the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

The Biotechnology Information Center is one of a dozen information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to biotechnology, subjects covered include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development, technology transfer, water quality, youth development, and others.

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Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

Animal Welfare Information Center Announces Training Program

Beltsville, MD — The Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) has announced a training program for scientists using animals in research. The program begins with a two-day training course to be held May 23-24, 1991. The course will instruct persons on how to utilize AWIC and NAL resources effectively to obtain literature relevant to animal care and use and related regulations.

The 1985 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act specify that investigators must provide documentation to their Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees that thorough literature searches were conducted that provide information on reducing numbers, refining techniques, or replacing animals in proposed research protocols. AWIC has been mandated as a contact and accessory to providing information on alternatives.

Specific objectives of the course are to provide:

- a comprehensive introduction to NAL and AWIC
- instruction on the use of existing information networks
- specifics on information retrieval from AGRICOLA and multiple databases
- an introduction to other technologies that assist with information retrieval
- resource materials that can be utilized at home and at the office

The course is targeted for persons charged with providing information on alternatives or other animal welfare topics to principal investigators or persons in public or private research institutions, government agencies, and professional associations. Persons interested in the course should possess computer expertise and be knowledgeable in

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bibliographic database searching. The primary of the course intent is to enhance existing skills and knowledge by teaching specific retrieval techniques for animal welfare literature. The course will not teach basic database search skills.

Persons who lack database search skills may be accepted by enrolling in the National Agricultural Library's AGRICOLA training class, which is held prior to the AWIC course, on May 20-22. For more information on the AGRICOLA class, call (301) 344-1204.

Space in the first AWIC course is limited and open to registrants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Additional courses will be offered in the future. For enrollment or more information please contact AWIC staff at (301) 344-3212.

AWIC staff can make arrangements to teach the course at research facilities around the nation. For more information on making such arrangements, contact Jean Larson, AWIC Coordinator, at (301) 344-1215.

Animal Welfare Information Center
National Agricultural Library, Room 205
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705

The Animal Welfare Information Center is one of a dozen information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to animal welfare, subjects covered include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development, technology transfer, water quality, youth development, and others.

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

Guide to Subject Indexing Published by NAL

Beltsville, MD — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has published a guide for those inputting data into its computerized bibliographic database, AGRICOLA, and ultimately for database users.

AGRICOLA — Guide to Subject Indexing by Martha W. Hood, NAL's Thesaurus Coordinator, outlines the principles and policies NAL indexers follow in subject indexing. The guide covers basic processes as well as standards and practices for applying AGRICOLA Subject Category Codes and *CAB Thesaurus* descriptors.

"The publication is a valuable reference tool for indexers, reference librarians, and anyone who searches the AGRICOLA database," Hood said. AGRICOLA, which stands for *AGRICultural OnLine Access*, contains literary citations of journal articles, monographs, theses, patents, computer software, audiovisual materials and technical reports related to all aspects of agriculture.

Hood's subject indexing guide also includes a form with which AGRICOLA users can propose additions and changes to the *CAB Thesaurus*.

Copies of the guide may be obtained by sending a self-addressed label with a request to:

National Agricultural Library
Indexing Branch, Room 011
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL Names New Administrative Manager

Beltsville, Maryland — Joseph H. Howard, Director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), has announced the appointment of Marlene Taylor to the position of NAL Administrative Manager, effective February 24.

A native of Utica, NY, Taylor comes to NAL with a background in both public administration and library science, with work experience and master's degrees in both areas.

"We are indeed lucky to find a person like Marlene with skills as both an administrator and a librarian," NAL Director Howard said. "We had many excellent candidates apply for the position, but her combination of library and management talents was just too good to pass up."

From 1987 until accepting the NAL appointment, Taylor was a personnel management specialist with the Farmer's Home Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Prior to that she worked as a personnel specialist with the U.S. Treasury Department and then USDA. From 1973 until 1980, she worked at the Library of Congress as first a librarian and later as a personnel specialist. She also has worked as a librarian at Princeton University in New Jersey.

Taylor received an undergraduate degree in government from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. She was awarded her master's in library science from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Her master's in public administration was earned at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL Publishes Revised AGRICOLA Indexing and Searching Aid

Beltsville, Maryland — A revised publication for indexers and users of the National Agricultural Library's on-line bibliographic database, AGRICOLA (*AGRICultural OnLine Access*), is now available free-of-charge from NAL.

Called *AGRICOLA Subject Category Codes with Scope Notes* (Modified AGRIS), 1990 Revision, the publication is used by NAL when classifying documents for entry into AGRICOLA and the *Bibliography of Agriculture*, AGRICOLA's print equivalent.

"This is a valuable reference tool for indexers, catalogers, reference librarians, and all other users of the AGRICOLA database," said Janet Berkson, coordinator of the revised work and a member of the staff of NAL's Indexing Branch.

AGRICOLA consists of literature citations related to all aspects of agriculture. These citations include journal articles, monographs, theses, patents, computer software, audiovisuals, and technical reports.

Copies of *AGRICOLA Subject Category Codes with Scope Notes* may be obtained by sending a self-addressed label with a request to:

National Agricultural Library
Indexing Branch, Room 011
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

Minnesotan Developing Fee-Based Service Plan for NAL

Beltsville, Maryland — Richard L. Rohrer, Director of the Library at the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota, is spending three months at the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in Beltsville, Maryland, evaluating NAL's system of charging patrons for library services.

"As part of NAL's Visiting Librarian Program, I am working with the library to review its fee-based services," Rohrer said. "I will also work with the staff to develop a business plan for these services."

Many federal agencies now charge "users' fees" in an effort to reduce the federal budget. These fees are charges to individuals for services a federal agency provides. For instance, an individual could be billed if he or she requests that a government employee do in depth research for needed information.

The library's Visiting Librarian Program allows non-government people to work on specific projects of mutual benefit to NAL and the individual. Rohrer said that he hopes to gain "a greater knowledge of fee-based services and their costs." Under the Visiting Librarian Program, NAL and the librarian's institution enter into an agreement for the librarian's services. NAL and the institution each agrees to provide a percentage of the funds and services necessary to defray the librarian's living and working costs.

Rohrer, who has a master's degree in library science from Emporia State University in Kansas as well as a master's in public administration from Minnesota's Hamlin University, will be at NAL through March 1991.

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

NAL Names New Youth Development Coordinator

Beltsville, Maryland — Joseph H. Howard, Director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL), has announced the appointment of John D.H. Kane as the coordinator of the NAL's Youth Development Information Center (YDIC).

Kane, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a Ph.D. in rural community development, began his new assignment in January 1991.

YDIC is one of eleven information centers established by NAL to provide to the agricultural community the most comprehensive and current information available on major issues affecting U.S. agriculture. Other subjects covered by NAL information centers include agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development, technology transfer, and water quality.

"I hope to make the Youth Development Information Center a national resource for all agencies and organizations in the public and private sectors," Kane said.

Prior to this assignment, Kane had been on the staff of NAL's Rural Information Center since 1988.

Kane graduated from the Naval Academy in 1969 with a degree in Engineering Science. Among many Navy assignments, he was Gunnery Officer on the destroyer USS Henderson off the coast of Vietnam.

Since 1975 Kane has held a series of positions related to animal science including assistant herdsman on the University of Maryland Swine Research Farm; farm manager at a cattle and horse farms in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina; and manager of the University of Maryland Beef and Sheep Research Farm. Concurrent with these positions he has taught courses, published papers and articles, and participated in programs related to animal sciences. He earned a master's degree in animal nutrition from the University of Maryland in 1978.

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YDIC can be reached by calling (301) 344-3719. The address is:

Youth Development Information Center
National Agricultural Library, Room 301
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Brian Norris
(301) 344-3778**

NAL Names Coordinator of Plant Genome Center

Beltsville, Maryland — Susan McCarthy has been named the coordinator of the Plant Genome Data and Information Center of the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

NAL's Plant Genome Data and Information Center is one of 11 information centers established by the library to provide to the agricultural community the most comprehensive and current information available on major issues affecting U.S. agriculture. Other subjects covered by NAL information centers are agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, rural information, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

The plant genome information center is funded by the USDA's Agricultural Research Service through the Plant Genome Research Project.

"The project was established to bring plant breeding into the 21st century," McCarthy said. "The latest breakthroughs in biotechnology will be used to identify and isolate plant genes so that plants can be bred for desirable products such as specialized oils, starches and protein. Among other benefit to farmers is that crops can be bred for greater tolerance to adverse climate conditions and to pests. All of these factors should help to keep the American farmer competitive in the global marketplace."

McCarthy, a Michigan native, has a Ph.D. in Biology (specializing in Plant Physiology) from the University of Illinois. Her undergraduate degree in Botany is from the University of Michigan. She has done extensive research in these fields.

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The Plant Genome Data and Information Center can be reached by calling (301) 344-3875; Telefax (301) 344-5472.

The address is:

Plant Genome Data and Information Center
National Agricultural Library, 14th Floor
10301 Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

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National Agricultural Library
Public Affairs Office, Room 204
Beltsville, MD 20705

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